

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-13 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 231005 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SAIGON 11299

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS PINT VS

SUBJECT: PRG PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 23

1. THE BRIEFING OFFICERS AT THE REGULAR SATURDAY PRG PRESS CONFERENCE (JUNE 23) WAS COL VO DONG GIANG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC.

2. COL GIANG BORE DOWN HEAVILY ON CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, SAYING THAT IN THE PAST TEN DAYS THE GVN HAD COMMITTED 1,778 OF THEM OF WHICH 1,566 WERE " POLICE " ACTIONS. HE SAID THAT THE PRG HAD DULY ISSUED ORDERS INSTRUCTING ITS TROOPS TO STOP FIGHTING AFTER JUNE 15, BUT THAT THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION HAD SENT ITS ORDERS BY TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAM AND HAD NOT BROADCAST ORDERS OVER PUBLIC RADIO OR TV. HE CHARGED THE GVN NOT ONLY WITH CONTINUING OLD MILITARY OPERATIONS TO GRAB LAND FROM THE PRG, BUT WITH STARTING NEW ONES. COL GIANG ACCUSED THE " SAIGON ADMINISTRATION " OF MOBILIZING ON JUNE 14 A LARGE FORCE EAST OF THE ANGEL ' S WING IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, AND OF STEPPING UP SHELLING ATTACKS FROM SCORES TO HUNDREDS- PER- DAY IN HAU NGHIA. HE SAID THAT THE GVN HAD

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DEPLOYED TWO REGIMENTS WEST OF KONTUM SINCE JUNE 15 AND THAT SOME FORTY ARVN BATTALIONS HAD BEEN DEPLOYED FOR LAND GRABBING PURPOSES IN THE DELTA.

3. WHEN ASKED BY CORRESPONDENTS WHY THE WEEKLY LIAISON PLANE DID NOT FLY TO HANOI FRIDAY (JUNE 22), COL GIANG REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE DRV OBJECTED TO THE US DELEGATION' S UNILATERAL INSISTANCE THAT EACH DELEGATION SIGN A SAFETY CERTIFICATE WITHOUT FIRST DISCUSSING THE MATTER AT A FPJMT MEETING. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE DRV WANTED A BLANKET WAIVER THAT WOULD COVER EVERY FLIGHT, RATHER THAN A SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FLIGHT.

4. ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, COL GIANG SAID THAT THE " SAIGON REGIME" HAD SHIFTED ITS POSITION AND WOULD AGREE TO THE ELEVEN POINTS THE FPJMC HAD DRAWN UP BEFORE ITS DISESTABLISHMENT. HE HAD HEARD, HE SAID, THAT THE PRG WOULD SOON BE PERMITTED TO RELOCATE FROM CAMP DAVIS TO A HOUSE IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

5. ONE CORRESPONDENT ASKED COL GIANG WHY THE PRG WANTED TO INCREASE ITS DELEGATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM FROM 1500 TO 2300. HE REPLIED THAT WHEN THE PRG DEPLOYS TO AREAS IN SAIGON TERRITORY MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE NEEDED TO HANDLE LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS, AS NONE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE " SAIGON REGIME."

6. IN CLOSING, COL GIANG SAID THE PRG FELT NOW THAT PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM WERE DIM, BUT THAT EVENTUALLY RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD WOULD PREVAIL. HE ADDED THAT THE " SAIGON ADMINISTRATION" HAD NOT RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE TWO ARMIES, TWO ADMINISTRATIONS AND TWO AREAS OF CONTROL IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

WHITEHOUSE

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